Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled).

8. (Currently amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 1,~~

A method of preparing metadata for splicing of a transport stream including video access units encoding video presentation units representing video frames, the video access units of the transport stream encoding the video presentation units using a data compression technique and containing a variable amount of compressed video data, the method including:

a) a server ingesting the transport stream;

b) the server storing the transport stream in a file in data storage; and

c) concurrently with storing the transport stream in the file in data storage, the server computing metadata for splicing of the transport stream, and storing the metadata for splicing in the file,

wherein the computing of the metadata for the splicing of the transport stream includes computing an extrapolated program counter value (PCR_e) for a respective first I-frame in each of a plurality groups of pictures (GOPs) in the transport stream.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the computing of the metadata for splicing includes computing a decode time stamp (DTS) corresponding to the extrapolated program counter value (PCR_e) for the respective first I-frame in each of a plurality of groups of pictures (GOPs) in the transport stream.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the respective DTS and PCR_e values for the GOPs are stored in a GOP index in a header of the file.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the GOP index further includes at least one frame number and a pointer to the transport stream data in the file for each of said plurality of groups of pictures (GOPs) in the transport stream.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the metadata includes values for attributes of each of a plurality of groups of pictures (GOPs) in the transport stream, and the values are stored in a GOP index in the file.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the GOP index includes an entry for each of the plurality of GOPs, and each entry includes at least one frame number of a

frame in the respective GOP, a pointer to where transport stream data of the respective GOP is stored in the file, and values for other attributes of the respective GOP.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the GOP index is in the form of a table and is stored in a header of the file after metadata about the transport stream as a whole.

15. (Currently amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method of preparing metadata for splicing of a transport stream including video access units encoding video presentation units representing video frames, the video access units of the transport stream encoding the video presentation units using a data compression technique and containing a variable amount of compressed video data, the method including:

a) a server ingesting the transport stream;

b) the server storing the transport stream in a file in data storage; and

c) concurrently with storing the transport stream in the file in data storage, the server computing metadata for splicing of the transport stream, and storing the metadata for splicing in the file,

which includes producing a GOP index to groups of pictures (GOPs) in the transport stream, and which includes decimating the GOP index by reducing the number of entries in the GOP index to make room for entries of additional GOPs in the transport stream being ingested.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method of preparing metadata for splicing of a transport stream including video access units encoding video presentation units representing video frames, the video access units of the transport stream encoding the video presentation units using a data compression technique and containing a variable amount of compressed video data, the method including:

a) a server ingesting the transport stream;

b) the server storing the transport stream in a file in data storage; and

c) concurrently with storing the transport stream in the file in data storage, the server computing metadata for splicing of the transport stream, and storing the metadata for splicing in the file,

which includes skipping metadata computations for a group of pictures (GOP) in the transport stream when there are insufficient computational resources available for computing the metadata for the group of pictures (GOP) concurrently with ingestion of the transport stream.

17. (Currently amended) ~~The method as claimed in claim 1,~~ A method of preparing metadata for splicing of a transport stream including video access units encoding video presentation units representing video frames, the video access units of the transport stream encoding the video presentation units using a data compression technique and containing a variable amount of compressed video data, the method including:

a) a server ingesting the transport stream;

b) the server storing the transport stream in a file in data storage; and

c) concurrently with storing the transport stream in the file in data storage, the server computing metadata for splicing of the transport stream, and storing the metadata for splicing in the file,

wherein the metadata includes values of attributes of groups of pictures (GOPs) in the transport stream, the attributes include high priority attributes and low priority attributes, and the method includes computing values for both high priority attributes and low priority attributes when there are sufficient computational resources available for computing values for both the high priority attributes and the low priority attributes concurrently with ingestion of the transport stream into the server, and the method includes computing the values for the high priority attributes but not the low priority attributes when there are sufficient computational resources available for computing values for the high priority attributes but not the low priority attributes concurrently with ingestion of the transport stream into the server.

Claims 18-21 (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) The ~~data storage device as claimed in claim 18~~

A data storage device containing a file of data of a transport stream including video access units encoding video presentation units representing video frames, the video access units

of the transport stream encoding the video presentation units using a data compression technique and containing a variable amount of compressed video data, wherein the file also contains an index to groups of pictures (GOPs) in the transport stream, and the index to the groups of pictures includes pointers to transport stream file data of respective ones of the GOPs, and the file further contains attributes of the GOPs computed from the data of the transport stream, and the attributes of the GOPs are also indexed by the index to the groups of pictures, wherein the computed attributes for each respective GOP includes an extrapolated program counter value (PCR_e) for a respective first I-frame in the respective GOP.

23. (Original) The data storage device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the computed attributes for each respective GOP includes a decode time stamp (DTS) corresponding to the extrapolated program counter value (PCR_e).

Claims 24-38 (Cancelled).